

Notes on some Chinese butterflies

(Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera)

by

HAO HUANG & YU-PING XUE

Abstract: Based upon the examination of type specimens, some recently described butterflies from China are revised and the following new stati and new synonyms are given: *Symbrenthia doni* (stat. nov.), *Symbrenthia dalailama* (syn. nov. = *Symbrenthia doni*), *Plebejus obscurolunulata* (syn. nov. = *Plebejus ganssuensis*), *Halpe unicolora* (syn. nov. = *Halpe knyvetii*). The holotypes of *Symbrenthia doni*, *S. dalailama*, *Plebejus ganssuensis*, *P. obscurolunulata*, *Halpe knyvetii* and *Halpe tytleri* (syn. of *H. knyvetii*) are illustrated. The male genitalia of most Chinese taxa of the genera *Symbrenthia* and *Brensymthia* are illustrated. The unique holotype of *Neptis zaida thawgawa* is illustrated for the first time and the population from Nujiang valley has been identified as this taxon. The lectotype of *Halpe nephele* is designated here and illustrated, with its relationship to *H. dizangpusa* discussed. The relationship between *Polytremis micropunctata* and *P. nascens* is discussed, with the specimen and male genitalia of the latter illustrated.

Nymphalidae

Symbrenthia doni TYTLER stat. nov. (col. pl. XIV, fig. 1, 2)

Symbrenthia brabira doni TYTLER, 1940: J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. XLII: 119–120. Holotype ♂, Jakama, Naga Hills [examined] (col. pl. XIV, fig. 1).

Symbrenthia dalailama HUANG, 1998: Neue Ent. Nachr. 41: 236–238. Holotype ♂, Metok, SE. Tibet [examined] **syn. nov.** (col. pl. XIV, fig. 2).

This species is characterized by the discal reddish band on upperside of hindwing not reaching costa, the fifth spot in space 1b on underside of forewing nearly as big as the upper spot in space 2, and the spots just inside of the postdiscal band much near to postdiscal band than to the inner spots in spaces 1–3. The holotype of *doni* agrees exactly with the holotype of *dalailama* in all these three characters. We take this opportunity to publish the photos of male genitalia (figs. 1–12) of most Chinese taxa in the genera *Symbrenthia* and *Brensymthia*.

Neptis zaida thawgawa TYTLER (col. pl. XIV, fig. 4)

Neptis zaida thawgawa TYTLER, 1940: J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. XLII: 119. Holotype ♂, Hthawgaw, NE. Burma [examined].

Neptis zaida ssp.: HUANG, 2003: Neue Ent. Nachr. 55: 82. 10 ♂♂, Gazu and Qiqi, Nujiang valley, NW. Yunnan.

The specimens from Nujiang valley agree rather well with the unique holotype of *thawgawa*.

Lycaenidae

Plebejus ganssuensis GRUM-GRSHIMAILO (vol. pl. XIV, fig. 5)

Lycaena argus var. *ganssuensis* GRUM-GRSHIMAILO, 1891: Hor. Soc. Ent. Ross. 25: 450. Lectotype ♂ (designated by BALINT), Amdo (now Qinghai) [examined].

Plebejus obscurolunulata HUANG, 1999: Lambillionea 1999: 327. Holotype ♂, South of Tsinghai Lake, Qinghai [examined] **syn. nov.** (col. pl. XIV, fig. 6).

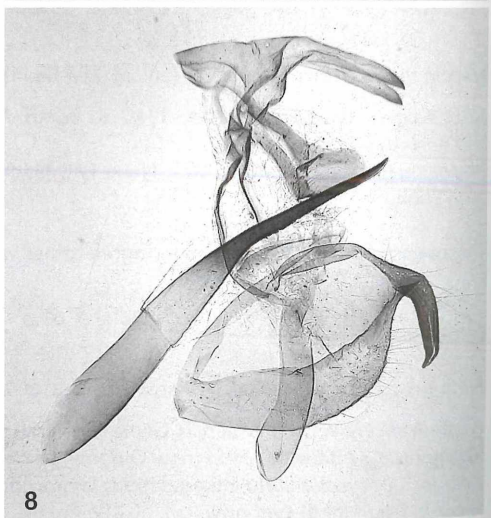
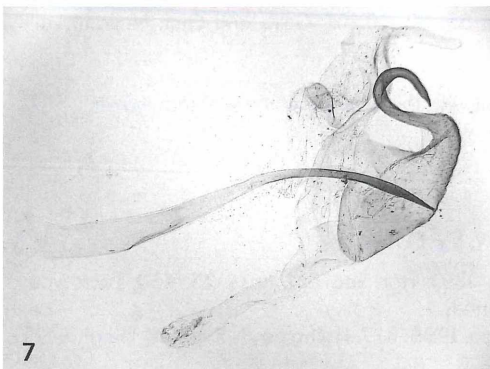
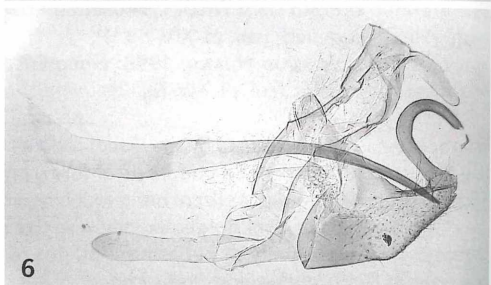
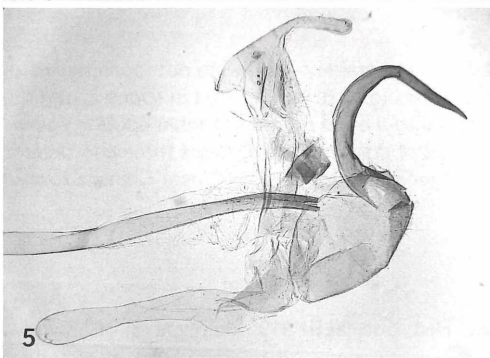
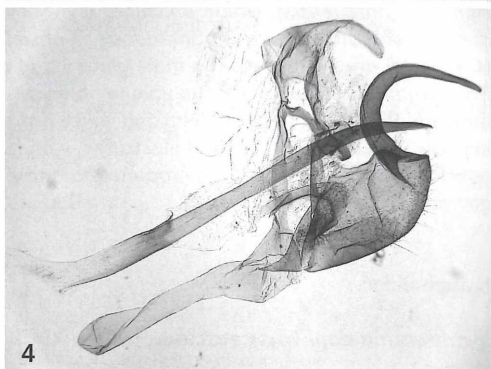
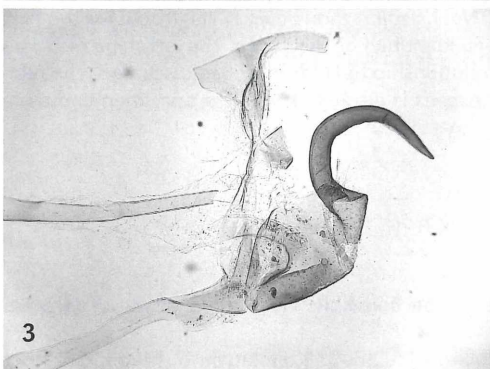
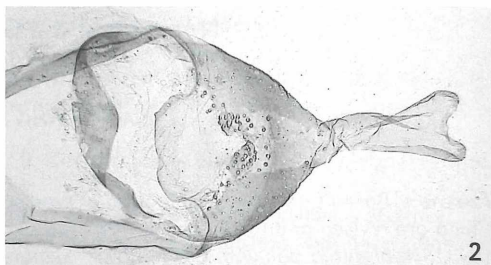
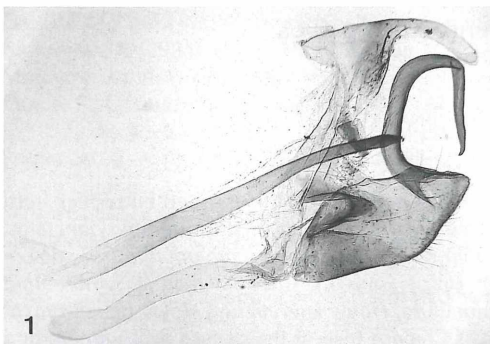


Fig. 1: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia doni* (Metok, SE. Tibet) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 2: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia doni* (Metok, SE. Tibet) consisting of dorsal view of uncus, tegumen and gnathos.

Fig. 3: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia brabira sinica* (Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 4: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia brabira sinica* (Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 5: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia viridilunulata* Holotype (Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 6: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia hypselis cotanda* (Metok, SE. Tibet) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 7: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia hypselis cotanda* (S. Yunnan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 8: Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia hippoclus lucina* (Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

The publication of *P. obscurolunulata* was a mistake made by the editor, who wrongly used the withdrawn text of *obscurolunulata* for the description of *Sinia lanty luokeqii* HUANG & LUO. However according to International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the name *P. obscurolunulata* is available, with the full description and type data. In preparing the manuscript for *obscurolunulata*, which was withdrawn when the author had studied more literature, he for sure decided a holotype. Here we illustrate the lectotype of *ganssuensis* (designated by BALINT) and the holotype of *obscurolunulata*. Both holotypes were taken from the same area and show no difference in external features from each other. The male genitalia taken from holotype of *obscurolunulata* are illustrated here (fig. 13).

Hesperiidae

Pseudocoladenia festa EVANS

Coladenia dan festa EVANS, 1949: Cat. Hes. Eur. Asia Aus.: 113. Holotype ♂, Naga Hills [examined].

Pseudocoladenia spec.: HUANG, 2003: Neue Ent. Nachr. 55: 68, 1 ♂, Gongshan, NW Yunnan.

The unidentified specimen from Gongshan belongs to this species. A review of Chinese taxa can be found in another paper.

Halpe knyveti ELWES & EDWARDS (col. pl. XIV, figs. 7–9)

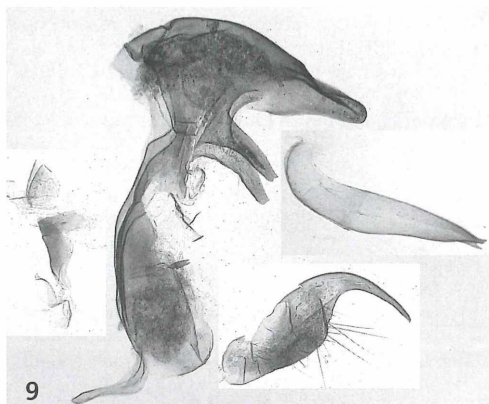
Halpe knyveti ELWES & EDWARDS, 1897: Trans. zool. Soc. Lond. 14 (4): 261, pl. 21, fig. 2. Holotype ♂, Sikkim [examined] (col. pl. XIV, figs. 7, 8).

Halpe tytleri EVANS, 1932: Ident. Indian Butts (2nd ed): 393. Syntype ♂, Khasi [examined] (synonymised by EVANS, 1949) (col. pl. XIV, fig. 9).

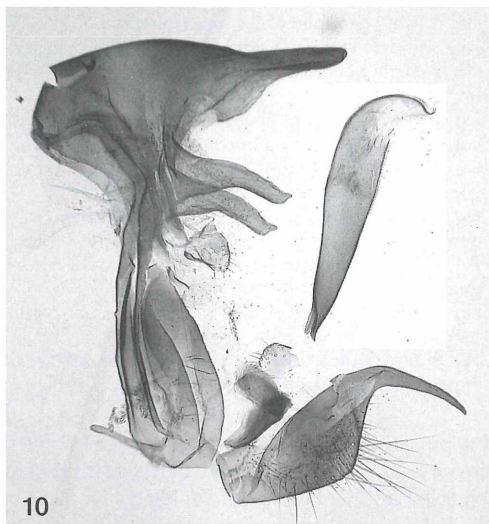
Halpe kilda EVANS, 1937: Entomologist 70: 16. Sikkim (synonymised by EVANS, 1949).

Halpe unicolora HUANG, 1999: Lambillionea 1999 (4): 664. Holotype ♂, Metok, SE. Tibet [examined] syn. nov.

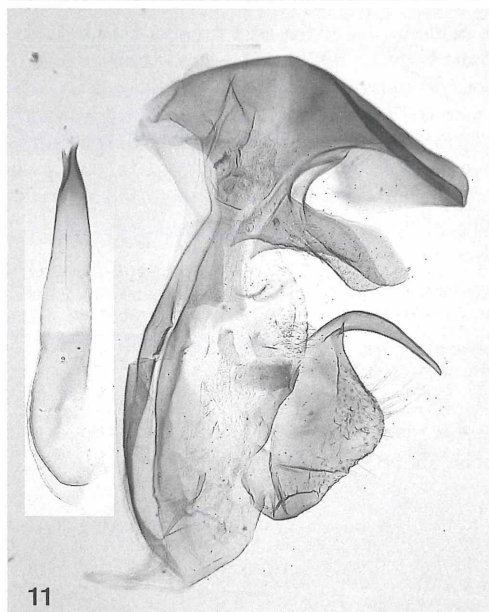
The male genitalia of holotype of *knyveti* are kept in dry condition on one of the labels, with only two clasps retained. The examination of external features and male clasps proves *knyveti* to be conspecific with *Halpe unicolora*. The specimens from SE. Tibet seem to have ciliae brighter and more reddish than in type specimens of *knyveti* and *tytleri*, but this is the only slight difference and does not constitute Tibetan population to be a good subspecies.



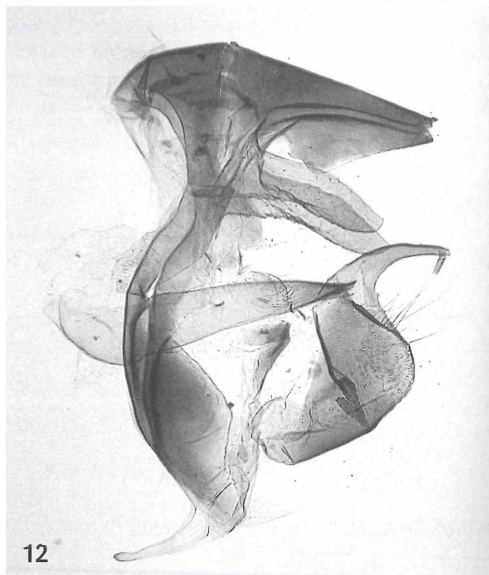
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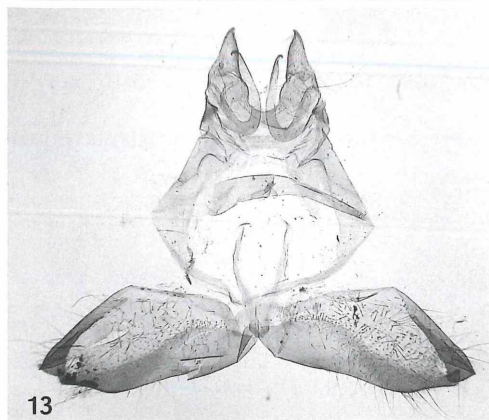
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Fig. 9: Male genitalia of *Brensymythia niphanda* niphanda (Yigong, SE. Tibet) consisting of lateral view of dorsum and ring (center), of lateral view of juxta (left), of lateral view of aedeagus (right top) and of lateral view of right valva (right bottom).

Fig. 10: Male genitalia of *Brensymythia niphanda* niphanda (Chayu, SE. Tibet) consisting of lateral view of dorsum and ring (left), of lateral view of juxta and right valva (right bottom) and of lateral view of aedeagus (right top).

Fig. 11: Male genitalia of *Brensymythia sinoides* (Lushan, Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva and aedeagus removed (right) and of lateral view of aedeagus (left).

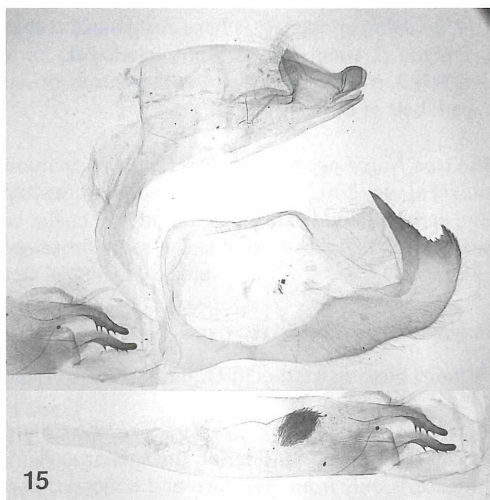
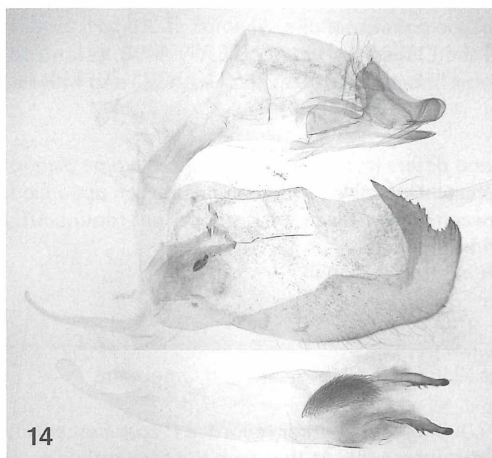


Fig. 12: Male genitalia of *Brensymythia sinoides* (Lu-shan, Sichuan) consisting of lateral view of male genital capsule with left valva removed.

Fig. 13: Spread male genitalia of *Plebejus ganssuensis* (Qinghai, Holotype of *obscurrolunulata*).

Fig. 14: Male genitalia of *Polytrema nascens* (Qing-cheng-shan, Sichuan, specimen illustrated) consisting of lateral view of genital capsule with aedeagus and left valva removed (top) and of dorsal view of aedeagus (bottom).

Fig. 15: Male genitalia of *Polytrema nascens* (Qing-cheng-shan, Sichuan, specimen not illustrated) consisting of lateral view of genital capsule with aedeagus and left valva removed (top) and of dorsal view of aedeagus (bottom).

Halpe nephele LEECH (col. pl. XIV, fig. 10, 11)

Halpe nephele LEECH, 1893: Butt. Chin.: 622, plate XLII: fig. 15. Lectotype ♂, Omei shan, Sichuan (BMNH), here designated [examined].

In his original description, LEECH listed the localities of his new species, *Halpe nephele* as Omei-shan (now W. Sichuan), Wa-ssu-kow (near Kangding, W. Sichuan), Chia-ting-fu (now Zhejiang, E. China) and Kwei-chow (now Guizhou), he did not decide a locality as type locality, but Omei-shan was placed as the first locality. When revising the Hesperiidæ of Europe, Asia and Australia, EVANS (1949) stated "O Mei Shan" as type locality of this taxon, and listed the following specimens in BMNH: 1 ♂ 1 ♀ Chekiang (Zhejiang), 9 ♂♂ 1 ♀ W. Szechwan (Ta Tsien Lou area, now Kangding area), 1 ♀ Kwei Chow (Guizhou), 1 ♂ Kwang Si (Guangxi) and 3 ♂♂ Fukien (Fujian). EVANS did not make a lectotype designation and there was only one male found in BMNH from Omei in LEECH's type series. With the help of Mrs. K. GOODGER, we have the possibility to examine the photos of this single male from Omei in BMNH and found that the original figure of *nephele* (LEECH, 1893: plate XLII, fig. 15) was most probably drawn from this male specimen and there is no difference between them. Because there were actually two distinct species among the syntypes of *nephele*, a lectotype designation is necessary here.

After a study of specimens from Sichuan, E. & S. China, which were exclusively identified as *Halpe homolea nephele*, the first author found that two distinct species were confused under the name *nephele* in literature: one is the true *nephele* from Sichuan, another is *dizangpusa* recently described from Anhui but also widely distributed in E. & S. China including Hainan. There is no sympatric record of these two species. The male genitalia illustrated by EVANS (1949: plate 33, fig. *nephele*) in his work should have been actually taken from a specimen of *dizangpusa* from E. China or S. China, the single male type specimen of *nephele* from Omei has not been dissected yet.

The lectotype of *nephele* is here designated and the type data as follows:

Lectotype ♂, wingspan 35.5 mm, labeled as "Omei-shan, 3620 ft. Native coll. July 1890. LEECH coll. 1901-173. *Halpe nephele*. a.", with a handwritten label "*Halpe nephele* Type ♂ sp. nov." and with red type labels of BMNH.

The true *Halpe nephele* is restricted to W. Sichuan and differs from the S. & E. Chinese *Halpe dizangpusa* HUANG, 2002 in having size larger, forewing apical spots always three in number on upperside, and in male genitalia having inner face of cuiller between the two divergent branches not continuously serrate, the distal branch of cuiller more robust and triangular.

Polytremis nascens (LEECH) (col. pl. XIV, fig. 12)

Parnara nascens LEECH, 1893: Butt. Chin.: 614, plate XLII: fig. 8. Chia-kou-ho and Omei-shan.

When describing *Polytremis micropunctata* HUANG, 2003, the first author regarded *P. caeruleascens* as its closest species, considering the similar cuiller in male genitalia. At that time the first author knew *P. nascens* only from literature and noticed that *nascens* is characterized by the male brand on the upperside of the forewing broken into two whitish dashes and thus cannot be confused with *micropunctata*. However recently he had the chance to examine two male specimens of *nascens* from Qingchengshan, Sichuan and learned that *nascens* must be the closest species of *micropunctata*. Both of them share the similar wing markings and male genitalia (figs. 14, 15) including the presence of cornuti, whereas *caeruleascens* shows different wing markings on the underside of the hindwing and the absence of cornuti in male genitalia.

P. nascens differs from *P. micropunctata* in having male brand broken into two whitish dashes, not complete as in the latter, and in male genitalia having the pair of apical processes less dentate and the cuiller with an additional tip at apex.

Acknowledgement

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addresses of the authors

HAO HUANG
Qingdao Vocational and Technical College
266555, Qingdao
P. R. China
email: cmdhhxx@hotmail.com

YU-PING XUE
Qingdao Vocational and Technical College
266555, Qingdao
P. R. China

Colour plate XIV

HUANG, H. & XUE, Y.-P.: Notes on some Chinese butterflies (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera). – Neue Entomologische Nachrichten 57: 171–177.

- Fig. 1: *Symbrenthia doni* Holotype ♂ (Naga Hills, India) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 2: *Symbrenthia dalailama* (syn. nov. = *S. doni*) Holotype ♂ upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 3: *Symbrenthia viridilunulata* Holotype ♂ (Lu-shan, Sichuan) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 4: *Neptis zaida thawgawa* Holotype ♂ (Hthawgawa, NE Burma) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 5: *Plebejus ganssuensis* Lectotype ♂ (Amdo) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 6: *Plebejus obscuralunulata* (syn. nov. = *P. ganssuensis*) Holotype ♂ (Qinghai) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 7: *Halpe knyveti* Holotype ♂ (Sikkim) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 8: *Halpe knyveti* Holotype ♂ (Sikkim) labels and male genitalia (enlarged at right top).
Fig. 9: *Halpe tytleri* (syn. = *Halpe knyveti*) Syntype ♂ (Khasi, India) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 10: *Halpe nephele* Lectotype ♂ (Omei-shan, Sichuan) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).
Fig. 11: *Halpe nephele* Lectotype ♂ (Omei-shan, Sichuan) labels.
Fig. 12: *Polytremis nascens* (Qing-cheng-shan, Sichuan) upperside (left half) and underside (right half).

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